THE

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM.

OMNIS FERET OMNIA TELLUS. VIRG.

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FOR THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM.

To the Editor of the Agricultural Museum.

SIR,

Our Gardeners have sought for the cause of the death of the Pear tree, but they have discovered nothing to satisfy a reasonable mind. As the decay of this valuable tree has for some time attracted my attention, I take the liberty of transmitting you my observations for publication.

A SUBSCRIBER.

THE PEAR TREE.

It is truly mortifying to gentlemen, who have been at the expense and pains of selecting from our nurseries of reputation, and importing from Europe, an extensive supply of the most delicious kinds of Pears, to be disappointed in the death of their trees, before they have been compensated for their trouble. The Pear tree makes its exit, in this manner: in the spring it appears remarkably healthy and shoots out with more than usual vigor; about the month of September, you find the trunk or some of the limbs turned of a colour not unlike rusty Iron; which, encircles the part diseased, and when this is the case, the leaves turn black as if blighted, and the tree may be cut down as irrecoverably gone.

I firmly believe from long observation, that the fine varieties admired in the days of Miller, and other celebrated gardeners, are fast disappearing, and will not be

found in a healthy state, after the expiration of a few years; else what has become of all the old fruits? An examination into this fact, is worthy of the consideration of every person curious in the cultivation of fruit-trees, and anxious to secure to himself and posterity, a supply of the most admired kinds. To remedy the loss of these, there is but one way, and that is, by producing a new generation from seed. A tree has its natural term of *life*; any grafts taken from one in a state of decay, have not a distinct origin, but being a part of the same tree, have its diseases and death entailed on them, and cannot be prolonged by all the gardeners, Iron and composition, in the world. Trees can be found in the neighbourhood of Baltimore breaking down with the weight of Iron hoops, (well covered with Forsyth's plaster,) but not with delicious fruit.—All grafts selected from diseased trees, which are introduced into seedling stocks by engrafting or otherwise, *will die*, shortly after the parent tree, down to the place of insertion, and the natural stock on which the graft was placed, will throw out shoots of its own particular kind, and if permitted to grow will become a tree, and many of the new varieties have been introduced into our gardens from the failure of the grafted part. Every variety of every species of fruit, in the beginning, proceeds from seed; and the only method known, of continuing and multiplying every variety, is by cutting; to be budded or engrafted on other stocks; and the operation can only be performed with success, when the tree from which you select your cuttings for engrafting is in a state of healthfulness, and not of the old worn-out kinds. It is supposed by many, that the operation of engrafting, will give new life to a tree; *this is a sad mistake;* for as all varieties of every species of fruit, arise first from seed, encreasing them by budding or engrafting, is nothing more than transplanting the bud or shoot, into a stock, from which it receives nourishment; and when the mother tree declines, all trees obtained from the same, will shortly after follow its fate. It is ascertained that a Pear tree raised from seed, will live more than one hundred

years, and will commence bearing if judiciously manag. ed in twelve or fifteen years. If you obtain a new vari ety, and admire the fruit, it may be encreased with the greatest safety until the expiration of its natural term. Some original Pear trees are to be found in the neighbourhood of the city of Annapolis surpassing the Oak in point of size, and are no doubt upward of one hundred years from the seed. From some experiments, I am led to suspect that very considerable advantages would be found to result from new varieties of our fruits, and those are easily obtained by sowing the seed, whenever different kinds have grown together, or if the tree from which you wish to obtain a new generation is detached from any other varieties, so that the farina from a neighbouring tree cannot impregnate the one from which you intend to propagate, you may calculate with certainty on raising a tree possessing the same qualities. The Pear tree may easily be propagated by seed; for seed perfectly preserved in sand through the winter, rises freely in the spring. This undoubtedly is the mode of obtaining new kinds of seed or stone fruits, but is little practised on account of the distant prospect and length of time, and from the hazard of not obtaining better kinds than the original from whence the seeds were taken, without recollecting it is the only certain way to continue a supply of fruit. Our nursery men, ought to pay particular attention to this easy mode of raising trees and not let us depend on chance for new varieties. Let every farmer appropriate a small piece of ground for experiments of this kind. We may from seed obtain better Pears than the original; and should we be disappointed, we are compensated for our trouble in possessing healthy stocks to engraft our new varieties on, as some will prove from seed remarkably fine, and be in great demand for engrafting. Should we make our experiment from seed indiscriminately saved, we must calculate on raising some indifferent fruit, but when proper attention is had to *seed*, and those only collected from the first *rate Pears*, the prospect must be a favourable one, and delicious kinds may be hoped for and reasonably expected.

Our gardens abound in a variety of the most admired Pears, now unfortunately on the decline; and a very few years will entirely deprive us of them, without they are renewed from seed.

Then let us with attention commence saving the seed from all those admired for their good qualities; and I have no doubt, before twenty years, the United States shall be able to boast of one hundred varieties, equal if not superior to the kind now cultivated, and every summer disappearing. Some Pear trees go off in a few days, whilst others commence in the limbs and decay by degrees, until nothing remains but a diseased trunk, which will sometimes make a second or third effort to send out vigorous shoots, to disappoint the industrious cultivator, who had better grub them up, than endeavour to restore them and waste his precious time to no good purpose.

The above observations relate to every species of fruit, but more particularly to Pears, as Apples of the finest kinds can be procured of American origin, as it is a well known fact, that all the fine Apples cultivated in this country with success, were accidentally obtained from seeds, and if a little pains had only been taken, the same could have been said of Pears.

FROM THE BATH PAPERS.

ON THE VIRTUE OF ASHES AS A MANURE.

GENTLEMEN,

From the enquiries I made when at Bath last winter I find that ashes are but little used as a manure in the Western Counties. As I have some reason to believe this neglect is owing to the use and virtue of ashes not being generally known, I beg leave to offer you a few remarks on the subject, which arise both from my own observation, and from the accounts given by those who have experienced the advantages arising from the use of ashes judiciously applied to their lands.

All ashes produced from vegetable bodies contain fixed salt, blended with the earthy particles; and from these it is, that the alkaline salts, called pot-ash, pearl ash, &c. are extracted.

MORTIMER tells us, that ashes of *all* kinds contain in them a very rich fertile salt, and that therefore, they are the best of any manures for cold land, especially if kept dry, and the salts be not washed away by the rains. One load of *dry* ashes will be equally efficacious with two loads that have been kept wet. Two loads of the former will be sufficient for an acre. And that they are very efficacious is experienced by many persons in the Eastern and Northern counties, where great improvement has been made by burning ferny stubble, bean stalks, heath, furze, and sedge.

Coal ashes are somewhat different in their nature, and being of a calcareous quality, are particularly beneficial to sour stiff soils: for this purpose they are very successfully used in the neighbourhood of London, Norwich, and some other great cities, where coals are generally burnt as fuel. They open and meliorate clayey lands, and correct their ungenial qualities.

They are likewise very useful in bringing into order grounds which have been dug for brick earth; as is well known in the neighbourhood of London.

After spreading these ashes on the clay bottoms, they plough them in, not very deep, and then sow horse beans, or sometimes lay them down with ray-grass, which mostly succeeds very well.

MORTIMER and BRADLEY both agree, that sea coal ashes are the best and most lasting manure for cold lands; and the fittest to kill worms and other insects.

Even so early as in Mr. WORLIDGE's time they were looked upon as excellent compost, when mixed with horse-dung. And he tells us, that they kill moss and rushes in most grounds.

Ashes from kilns, where straw and furze are burnt, are a very good manure for most kinds of soil. Many farmers use them as a top-dressing for corn and grass,

but they should never be laid on in windy weather. They succeed best just before rain or snow falls, as these wash them into the soil.

Peat ashes are also a very good manure, especially if mixed with lime before they are spread.

Ellis, in his Modern Husbandry, has judiciously observed, that there is a considerable difference between the ashes of lean peat and those of the fatty kind

If barley be sown so late as in May, *lean peat* ashes in particular may be applied over it, or harrowed in with the grain. But ashes burnt from fat black peat, such as is dug about Newbury in Berkshire, and in some parts of the Isle of Ely, are of so sulphureous a nature, that farmers are afraid to lay them on their barley; nor do they dress their wheat with them till late in the spring.

The earth, of which these rich ashes are made, is taken from a black moorish ground, with narrow wooden scoops, which bring it out in the form of a long brick.—After being dried, they are burnt in large heaps, admitting as little air to the fire as possible.

The great use of these ashes was discovered near eighty years ago; but, like some other things, they soon fell into disgrace by injudicious management; some people imprudently laid them on their lands in too large quantity at a time, by which means their corn was burnt.—But afterwards they found that about eight bushels were sufficient to be sown over an acre of wheat, pease, turnips, clover, rape, or sainfoin; and this as early as possible.

These ashes contain at least double the quantity of sulphur that is found in any other. And therefore, if sown too thick, and a dry season should ensue, they are apt to burn the tender fibres of the corn. They destroy slugs, on pease crops and other grain, better than any thing. But no danger need be feared from the ashes of peat or turf which grow on sandy bottoms, and contain the roots of thyme and heath.

Soap ashes are a composition of wood-ashes and lime, which remain after the soap-makers have drawn off their ley or lees.

Two loads of these ashes are sufficient for an acre of arable land; and by the assistance of this manure, the ground will not only yield a large crop, but may be sown constantly without fallowing for many years together.—They should be laid on in the beginning of winter, that the rain may the more easily dissolve and wash them in. Sir HUGH PLATT tells us, that by manuring a piece of barren land in Middlesex with these ashes, in the year 1594, he obtained an excellent crop of summer barley.

I have in many experiments found great advantage from the soaper's ashes on cold sour meadow land, and am fully convinced, that if any farmer can procure them, including carriage, at the expence of twelve shillings a waggon load, they will be the cheapest and most profitable manure he can lay on such soils. I am, &c.

J. B.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES.

Statement of Cotton Manufactories, situated within thirty miles of the town of Providence, R. Island.

Towns.	Factories.	Spindles in operation.	No. of Spindles which might run in the buildings.
Providence R. I.	1	540	1250
North Pro.	5	3592	6700
Johnston	2	1282	2700
Cranston	4	1100	2988
Cumberland	2	412	412
Smithfield	3	4188	5800
Scituate	3	2688	4000
Gloucester	2	72	432
Warwick	9	10752	17856
Coventry	5	5142	12800

Exeter	1	400	800
So. Kingston	1	405	408
	—38—	—30663—	—56240

Massachusetts within thirty miles of Providence.

Rehoboth	8	5250	9438
Attleborough	4	1200	4460
Taunton	1	2800	1000
Dighton	4	2775	7000
Wrentham	1	260	260
Merton	2	480	2400
Mansfield	2	350	1600
Medway	2	1000	1500
Franklin	1	200	400
Murdon	1	1392	11000
Dedham	1	654	1200
Walpole	1	....	800
Canton	2	1000	2400
	—30—	—17371—	—43458

Connecticut within thirty miles of Providence.

Pomfret	1	1560	3000
Plainfield	3	1060	3096
Sterling	1	....	2000
Thompson	2	....	2300
Killingly	1	800	1500
	—8—	—3420—	—11898
	76	51454	111600

Each Spindle will produce yarn enough weekly to make two and an half yards of Cloth of the value of thirty cents per yard The number of Spindles now in operation will therefore produce sufficient yarn, when wove, to make in each week 128685 yards of Cloth, worth $96,476 25 cents. *Eastern Paper.*

SALT WORKS.

By a gentleman from the Gennesee country we are informed, that last Summer at a Salt Works, in Galen

Township, Cayuga county and State of N. York; the owner had an idea that by digging he might perhaps arrive at the Salt rock—accordingly he employed a hand to try the experiment, who went down about 60 or 70 feet, when to his great fatisfaction he came to the bed of Salt, and broke off a small piece, but the water broke in upon him so fast, that he had to call for assistance to get out, and had only time to bring one of his tools with him, and a small piece of Salt, which was clear like a piece of allum; the water rose to the surface and ran over—they then built a wall of stone and lime round it 4 feet high, so close as to hold water—they have a number of kettles, or salt pans constantly boiling, but still they are unable to use it as fast as it rises. The water is so strong that where it scatters over the ground it chrystalizes with the heat of the sun in the hot weather.

Cumb. Reg.

AGRICULTURAL.

INTERESTING TO FARMERS.

On the Siberian or Naked Wheat.

By a fortunate accident I obtained from a Merchant in Boston, in January last, half a bushel (which he imported from Russia) of this invaluable grain, as respects our cold northen regions. Small samples will be delivered to each of the members of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, by applying to *Thomas B. Strong* or to the subscriber in Pittsfield, or to Doctor Caleb Hyde in Lenox, personally, or by order.

For the information of the public, the following is in substance extracted from Varlo's husbandry, 2d. vol. page 263—published in 1795 by an English farmer residing in America.

E. WATSON.

Pittsfield, 9th March, 1812.

"Varlo states that the naked wheat is a native of Siberia; one of the coldest countries in the world, covered with snow nine months in the year. That it is the chief support of the inhabitants, and vegetates and grows quick: the grain small, full and hardy, with a thin skin —that he ascertained its value ———12 pounds of English wheat was made into a loaf, the like quantity of Siberian, and both baked together—the English loaf weighed 15lb. the Siberian 18lb when baked, and both equal in quality. That the Siberian produces only half the quantity of bran, and as it partakes partly of barley in its nature, it makes good Ale.

That when it first arrived in England he procured only half a wine glass full, intending to sow it in April, but by mistake it was not sowed till the 7th of June, and it yielded a good crop.———The ensuing year he dibbled in each grain a foot apart in April, & it yielded 200 fold——That it exceeds any grain for increase, and grows better on bad land—but yields better in proportion to its goodness. The proper season to sow about the 10th of April (probably first of May here); he advised to plough deep, or even to trench plough, that is twice in the same furrow—to dibble in each seed with a setting stick, a foot a part, as it stools out greatly and injures the crop to sow it thick. That it costs only about 8l. sterling an acre in England, and will require in this mode only 12 quarts to an acre. One man can cover two acres a day with a rake—and grass seed may be sown before the ground is raked.——There are two kinds of wheat in Siberia. *Pittsfield Sun.*

FROM THE AMERICAN DAILY ADVERTISER.

QUICK SET HEDGING.

In the third number of Walsh's American Review, July, 1811—Page 82, in a note, there is a concise account of the best modes of hedging we recollect to have seen. The review of the second volume of "Memoirs of the

Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture," is well worthy of perusal. It gives a perspicuous account of the contents of that patriotic work; which deserves every degree of encouragement. This being the season for settling our hedge plants, we deem the extract opportune and useful.

"In Ireland, they plant the thorn in a mound slightly faced with stone; and the earth from the ditch is thrown inward; so as to form a strong embankment and defence, immediately against *horses, hogs, or cattle*—Any rough stones, or flat ones placed edgeways will answer. —After the first course is laid, they throw the top pit ["out of the intended ditch: which is perviously lined out; and is finally dug four feet wide at top, and two feet wide at bottom; three feet and an half deep"] or vegetable mould; and the richer this is, the better ["or if good mould or rotten dung were added, it would be highly advantageous"] for the young plants; which require good earth in their early state. They then plant obliquely the sets of Quick (which must have roots) so as that they grow through the first joint, and over the first course of stones; and form, outside the stone facing, a beautiful hedge. They leave a sufficient space, of from twelve to eighteen inches, between the wall and the edge of the ditch, to guard against the mouldering or undermining of the wall by frosts, which after three years, cannot affect, so as to injure either the mound or ditch; as the roots mat, and preserve the earth from crumbling. This mode is now practised by William Neil, tobacconist, from the County of Antrim, in Ireland; now resident on the Philadelphia and Lancaster turnpike road, at the 16th mile stone. He speaks confidently of his success; and says that it costs less than post and rail fences, in the first instance—tho' he hauled the stone a mile. He also says, that he has been accustomed to this mode; and long acquainted with hedges—and that the browsing by sheep or cattle, is, after some years growth, serviceable to hedges. His young hedges, visible to all travellers on that road, exhibit proofs of high capacity

in this mode of hedging; and at the same time, furnish instructions in every stage of the process. The wall is about three feet and a half high.—It must incline or batter a little inwards; so as to prevent its falling outwards when the earth settles.

This mode has evidently the advantage over plain hedging; as it requires no protecting fences; and the plants are more easily kept clear of weeds. The earth from the ditch, constantly thrown inside backs the wall; and affords protection to the young plants as well as soil for them to grow in.

Mr. Neil says, he loses no plants by droughts or injuries. Stones are often nuisances on fields; and may thus be converted to beneficial uses. Mr. Neil is communicative; and seems to take pleasure in instructing those who would practice his mode of hedging.—It is full time for every provident farmer to begin a plan of enclosures—to meet the difficulty a want of timber will, ere long, occasion. It is even now most sensibly felt.

March 16, 1811. AGRICOLA.

FROM THE LOUISIANA COURIER OF MARCH 11th.

STEAM BOATS.

We consider the steam boats of Messrs. Livingston and Fulton a discovery of the greatest importance to this country. By shortening distances, and multiplying communications, the steam boats must raise New Orleans to the rank of a great emporium, to which from the most distant countries will be sent to be bartered or sold, all the various produces of agriculture and industry. By the navigation of those ingenious vessels, the great fluid arteries which irrigate the western countries and Upper Louisianna, will carry throughout the vivified parts of that vast territory, the rich tribute of the soil and manufactures of the several states of the Union. Excited by the numerous means of exchange, by the celerity and safety of exportations, agriculture and commerce will in some degree vie with each other to favour

the increase of the population; and of all the arts which foster civilization, and tend to the prosperity of empires; and that part of America, the ground of which not long since was occupied only by wandering tribes of savages, will become in a short time the most splendid theatre of human activity and genius Such will be undoubtedly the glorious influence of some privileged minds on the destinies of the generations by whom they will be succeeded; dear and precious influence, since it is that of genius and it cannot be exercised but for the advantage of all the community! How many thanks then are we bound to offer those steady and disinterested men, who instead of following the beaten tracts of common industry to acquire wealth, dare to open unknown paths, and to deviate from the vulgar conceptions for extending the limits of the human discoveries, at the risk of expending their patrimony in ruinous experiments, for which they can never receive any compensation from the public? In every civilized country there is nothing which can give more sacred or more indisputable rights to the national gratitude, than the discoveries or useful works of men of talents, who devote their genius and resources to the prosperity of the country where they are born or to which they belong by adoption. The privileges contain nothing which may be considered as odious, because they have been conquered by genius, nothing which may be felt as vexatious, because they produce altogether the benefit of the inventor, and that of the community.

FROM THE BATH PAPERS.

An Account of an Experiment actually made to discover whether whole Potatoes or Cuttings are to be preferred in planting, &c.

[By Mr. Joseph Wimpey.]

Early in the spring of this year I had a large quantity of potatoes, out of which I selected forty eight bushels

of the fairest for sets. The ground intended for them, the summer before, had borne oats and vetches, which were mowed green, and given to the horses in the stable; after which it was depastured till January. It was then clean ploughed, and lay till the end of March. Twenty-four cart loads of long dung, forty bushels to the load, were then spread over equally. Furrows were then drawn the length way of the field, at a yard distant from each other. In eleven of these furrows, containing sixty perch or pole, were dropped fourteen bushels of whole or uncut potatoes, the size generally from a large pullet's egg to that of a goose. The remainder of the ground, being 265 poles, making in the whole 325 pole, or two statute acres and five poles, was planted with thirty-four bushels of cut potatoes, being the remainder of the forty eight bushels. These were cut mostly out of large potatoes, in pieces about the size of a large pullet's egg. The largest were cut into six or eight pieces, the lesser into four; being careful to preserve a proper number of eyes or buds in each cutting. The sets of both cut and uncut were planted about fourteen inches asunder, in the rows. The furrows were turned out with a plough having a double mould-board, which, when planted, were completely covered by running the same plough up the middle of each interval, which threw the mould half one way and half the other, and is the speediest, easiest, and cheapest method of planting I am acquainted with. The ground was planted the 14th and 15th days of April last.

In June they were horse-hoed with a small one-wheel plough, which I keep for horse hoing; and this was all the labour and expense bestowed upon them during their growth.

The 30th of October the taking of them up was completed. The whole produce was only 378 bushels;—a very indifferent crop! little more than half the acreable produce of last year. The expense of ploughing them up, loading, carrying home about a quarter of a mile, unloading, and carrying into the barn, &c. was not quite 3d.

a bag, or a penny a bushel. The state of the account, in a comparative view, I make out as follows :

The measure of the ground planted was 325 poles. The whole produce 378 bushels. The measure of the ground planted with *cut* potatoes was 265 poles ; the produce 312 bushels. The ground planted with whole or *uncut* sets was 60 pole, and the produce of the same 66 bushels.

Now, if 325 poles, the whole measure of the ground planted, produced 378 bushels, then 265 poles should produce 308 bushels, (I omit the fractions) but this quantity of ground planted, with cut potatoes) produced four bushels more nearly, that is 312 bushels. Again, as 325 poles produced 378 bushels and a fraction ; but it produced only 66 bushels, which is upwards of three bushels short of its proportion. It is true the difference is too trivial to be worthy of notice ; but what it is, is in favour of the cut potatoes. With respect to the acreable produce, then, it is a matter of little importance whether the ground be planted with *cut* or *uncut* potatoes.

The acreable produce being nearly the same, whether planted with whole or cut potatoes, the great and interesting comparative question remains, viz. What is the difference of the expense in the planting of cut or uncut potatoes? which is very satisfactorily ascertained as follows :

If 48 bushels, the whole quantity of sets used, produced 378 bushels, then 34 bushels, the quantity cut, should produce 267 bushels ; but they produced 312, which is 45 bushels more than the proportion. Again, if 48 bushels produced 378 bushels, then 14 bushels should have produced 110 bushels ; but 14 bushels of uncut produced only 66 bushels, which is 44 bushels less than the proportion. A preference of 40 per cent. in favor of cut potatoes, in comparison with whole setts !

By this statement it clearly appears, that any quantity of land planted with potatoes cut into pieces of the size above-mentioned, will, *cæteris paribus*, produce as great

a crop as an equal quantity of land planted with *uncut* potatoes, the weight of which should be 40 per cent. more: for example,

To plant a statute acre with potatoes as above, would require of uncut 37 and a half bushels; of cut only 20 and a half bushels, the difference nearly 17 bushels; which at 2s. 4d. per bushel, the price they sold at in March and April last, amounts to £1. 19s. 8d. an object much too considerable to be neglected as the planter of many acres, even when the price may be as low as 3s. a sack.

N. B. Potatoes in this country are usually sold by the bag. By a bag is understood a sack which will hold four bushels of corn, 9 gallon measure, which they fill as full as they can to admit of its being tied; and the usual weight is 12 score or 240lb. This sack holds three bushels of potatoes heaped.

The foregoing experiment was conducted with all imaginable care and precision, the facts are truly stated, and the writer hopes the calculations are just.

P. S. In class 3, article 4, a premium is offered to the inventor of the best new constructed plough for ploughing up potatoe-crops, by which the work may be done with the least loss or damage to the crop. As my method of taking up potatoe-crops is not attended with the least loss or damage, and is, I conceive, as expeditious and as little expensive as can be desired, I request leave to lay it before the Society.

As observed before, I plant my potatoes in rows with intervals of about three feet, for the convenience of horse hoing them. When the haulm is decayed, I proceed to take them up in the following manner:—With a common foot or one-wheel plough, much used in this part of Hants, and in Wilts; the ploughman having *first taken out the coulter*, and adjusted the wheel so as that the point of the share may be deep enough to pass under the bed of potatoes; he begins at one end just under the middle of the row, and with one furrow turns them out on the surface of the ground. Two or three girls or

boys follow the plough, and pick them up as they appear; so that the ground of one row is cleared before the ploughman has finished another, and thus they proceed without the least hindrance or interruption to each other.

When the whole is ploughed and picked in this manner, a pair of drags is run over the whole, which separates and exposes the potatoes that may happen to adhere to the clods of earth, which are then also picked up and the grounds nearly cleared. The season being now come for sowing wheat, the ground is clean ploughed, and the few potatoes that may possibly remain fully exposed to view, which being also picked, the ground is rendered very clean.—In this way the whole expense of harvesting the crop is little more than picking and carrying home; for the expense of ploughing, &c. is little, if any, more than would have been incurred in tilling the ground equally well for the wheat crop.

Now I think it impossible, by any invention or device whatever, to take up a potatoe crop with less loss or damage The crop of the above experiment was taken up under my own eye, and I with great truth and confidence aver, that there were not so many as a single gallon bruised, cut, or damaged in the least degree whatever.

North Bockhampton, 1789.

THE INCREASE OF SHEEP AND WOOL.

The landed interest of the U. States owe to themselves *much* greater attention to *the breeding of Sheep and the care of the fleeces*, than they have hitherto paid. It cannot be, that Great Britain can have had an interest in forbidding, during five or six centuries, the exportation of sheep and that we can have no interest in raising or multiplying them. Some power in Europe constantly captures such parts of our crops as we cannot consume, and which we therefore export. Let us

then raise crops and commodities we can consume and use. *Wool is a sure and a good article, to be raised in much greater abundance.* Let our farmers carefully consider the advantage of breeding in the last year or two, from the *fine-woolled* Sheep: *the excellent Spanish Merinos.* Let them also consider the profit England makes by breeding from the *heavy fleeced* Sheep; such as the Lincoln, Leicester, Dishley or Bakewell and other heavy fleeced Sheep. Every farmer should make, with every ewe, a careful experiment of getting her to the *finest woolled* breeder or to the *heaviest fleeced* breeder. If none are in his flock or neighborhood, he should take care to prefer rams of the *finest* or *the heaviest* fleeces he can obtain. This will produce a steady and rapid *improvement in the quality* or *increase of the quantity* of wool. No time in this country was ever so profitable for breeding sheep as the present; and as mills, which turn as many as sixteen thousand spindles for wool are known to exist in Europe, and as we have the mechanism here, our market for wool of every description must continue excellent. We could manufacture, with ease, dress and color five times the number of Sheep skins we can procure. Our physicians agree, that mutton is one of the wholesomest meats, for the well, for the sick, for the invalid and for the convalescent. The service of our country, the care of the poor and industrious, and the best interests of the United States require us to multiply our sheep, to increase *the weight of the fleeces and flesh,* and to improve the quality of our wool by the earliest and steadiest attention and exertions. Let us also avoid the unnecessary slaughter of these useful animals, (even the weathers) for one or two years, considering all as *breeders or wool bearers.*

Nat. Intel. Oct. 29, 1811.

For some time previous to the publication of the preceding paragraph, the general expectation was, that "*wool would be a sure and a good article to be raised,*" and that the breeding of fine wooled sheep would yield an abundant profit to the Agriculturist. Under this

view of the subject, Merino sheep were sought after and purchased at even enormous prices, in many parts of the middle and eastern States. That the result has fallen much short of what was expected, is almost universally acknowledged; but it is presumed, that the cause is not so generally known or considered. A correspondent in the same paper, estimated that in the year 1811, there would be "shedded in this conntry, *thirteen millions of pounds of wool*," and infers as a consequence, that woolen cloth, of a substantial and comfortable kind, will be manufactured here, to an extent beyond the most sanguine expectations. The quantity of wool produced in the United States last year, was no doubt very great—probably not less than the above estimate. As much as usual, and perhaps more, has been manufactured in private families; but large establishments and public factories have not entered to such extent into the business as was expected—they have not done as much as was calculated, and they have been able to obtain large supplies of wool from abroad, at a low rate. These circumstances have greatly affected the price of wool in this country—the latter has also had very considerable effect on the price of wool in England, as appears from Lord Sheffield's Report for the year 1811.

In that Document it is stated that "the average importation of wool in 19 years, ending 1775, was only 869,727 lbs. and even at that time we considered woolen as our principal and most valuable manufacture. The average importation of eight years, ending 1789 (the commencement of the French revolution), was 2,660,828lbs. The average of eight years, ending 1799, was 4,820,000lbs. and the average of eight years, ending 1810 inclusive, was 7,719,929lbs. The immense increase since 1789, must of course greatly clash with the essential interests of the landed property of the United Kingdom; and although the prime foreign wools, viz. Leonesas, even at 6s. 9d. can hardly interfere with English wools at from 2s. to 3s. yet as a great proportion are the lower wools from Spain and Portugal,

which in consequence of the great failures, have often sold of late for less than the freight and insurance, they not only interfere with the first crosses of the Merino with the British ewes, but also with the prime clothing wools of English breeds, such as the Hereford and South Down; and the knowledge of the very extraordinary quantity imported, and the stock wool in the hands of the growers, has prejudiced so much the sales, that the growers seem entirely at the mercy of the buyers; and the latter are not averse to take advantage of those circumstances, which will tend to keep down the value of wool."

To remedy this evil it is then observed:

"As it is now demonstrated that we can raise in these islands, wools as fine and well adapted to our purposes as those that are imported, it is a highly unprincipled policy to continue an importation which costs us some millions sterling yearly. And at this time, when we are necessarily greedy of revenue, a duty of one shilling per pound on foreign wools, would be supported by good principles, and wools would have produced last year 546,550l. One shilling per pound would check the importation of inferior foreign wools, which principally interfered with the English fine wools, but would not prevent the introduction of the prime Spanish sorts, such as we used to import. The tax would scarcely be felt by those who speculate in that article, and in consequence of the competition the manufacturer would pay little more than he otherwise would do; and as a very small proportion of our manufacture of Spanish wool goes to foreign countries, there can be no objection to the duty on the ground of hurting our export trade. It is a sufficient sacrifice of the landed to the manufacturing interest, to prohibit the exportation of any kind of produce such as wool; but the admission of all wools without paying any duty, to the great discouragement of the growth of wools in these kingdoms, is a sacrifice of essential interest, not to be supported on any principle of justice or policy. The patriotic introduction of Spanish sheep by his Majesty, and by several spirited indi-

viduals, has succeeded more rapidly than the most sanguine had expected, and there is every reason to believe, that the merino wool of British growth, such as his Majesty, Mr. Tollet, and other gentlemen, have raised, if it were washed and sorted in the Spanish mode, might go to market in competition with the average of the Leonesas or best wools, and the heavy expense of importing wools be saved."

"But these exertions must soon decline, if the wool of every part of the world is to be admitted duty free; the wool grower will be obliged to relinquish his present endeavors to improve the quality of his wool, as he finds he cannot have an adequate price, and of course he will aim at an increased quantity instead of an improved quality, and thus we shall relapse into our former slovenly inattention to the character of our wool."

From these and other facts and reasonings, his lordship draws the following among other conclusions:

"That it is not the decay of the manufacture, or the want of demand for it, but difficulties respecting money and the great stock of wool on hand, that occasion the debasement in price."

"That the sale of fine English wool is greatly prejudiced by an immense importation of Spanish wool, and by the distressed state of the Staplers."

"That through the want of a due encouragement of agriculture and the cultivation of waste lands, this country (England) has paid, during the last fifteen years, considerably more than £10,000,000 sterling yearly, for grain and wool,* which might have been raised in the united kingdom."

His lordship then proceeds to what he calls "the most disagreeable part of his report; the statement of the low prices lately given for fine English wool." The result was that the fine English wools sold from a third to a half less than the preceding year; and lest it should be supposed that this reduction in the price of wool, arose in

* The foreign wool imported into England in the year 1810 amounted to 10,931,000 pounds.

any great measure, from a diminution in the exports of woolen manufactures, it is stated that, "the official value of woolen manufactures exported last year (1810) viz: £5,773,214, exceeds in value the exports of the year 1809 by £350,000, and those of that year considerably exceeded the exports of the preceding year." So that the conclusion to be drawn from the whole, is, that while the quantity annually manufactured was increasing, the price of the raw material was decreasing, arising from vast importations from abroad.

Such is also the fact in the United States. The manufacture is rapidly increasing, yet the price of wool, especially of fine wool, has greatly declined from what it was some time ago, and from what it was reasonable to expect it would continue to be. The growth of wool has exceeded the means of manufacturing it—and large importations have been brought in from Spain and Portugal. So that the breeder of sheep cannot get for his Merino wool more than half the price he had expected—the best Spanish wool has sold for still less.

But whence has this arisen? The state of Spain has in a very great degree prevented the manufacture of wool in that country. This with other circumstances has thrown a vast quantity of wool into the market in the seaport towns, to which our vessels had access with their corn and flour—money was scarce or not allowed to be exported. Great loss was sustained by taking bills on England, and wool appeared to be an object of speculation, as Merino sheep had been.—The first cargoes were so—they not only saved the importer from the loss he would have experienced on bills of exchange, but afforded him some profit on the first cost. Yet in a short time large quantities were sold for less than first cost, and less than half what the sheep breeder in this country had promised himself—still the merchant considered this sacrifice preferable to the loss to be sustained on bills of exchange. But this is a state of things that could not continue long—It is perhaps now at an end forever. The stock of Spanish wool from which the

importation to this country and to England was derived, must be exhausted—it cannot in any short period from this be raised in any great quantities—and whoever may be sovereign of the Peninsula, will not, it is presumed, permit its exportation hereafter, but will have it manufactured at home.

The low price of fine wool, for some time past, has, no doubt, greatly discouraged the agriculturist who had promised himself much advantage from the raising of Sheep, especially of the fine wooled breed; but let such be assured, there is yet no reason for despondence. The low price of fine wool will operate as a bounty to our infant factories. It will give them vigor and call many more into operation than could have been expected, had the price of wool continued to be high. When the imported wool is all wrought up, and no more can be obtained from abroad, the price of our domestic wool must rise.—The many factories which the present low price of wool is bringing into operation, will have to depend on that alone which is grown in our own country. Let the agriculturist then still pay a due attention to Sheep.—Notwithstanding present appearances, they will, ere long, afford him all the profit which he could reasonably expect.

CATTLE SHOW.

The seventh show, held under the direction of the Pennsylvania Society, for improving the breed of Cattle, took place on Thursday the 30th of April, at Bushill.

The following Cattle were exhibited:

1 By Mr. Shaffey, thirteen handsome and very fat Cattle, and a very superior spayed black heifer, all from near Reading, in Berks-County.——They would have done credit to any country: the heifer brought to the recollection of some persons, the beautiful animal of the same discription, exhibited by Mr. Dubbs at the first Cattle Show in July 1810, and on inquiry it appeared that both came from the same farm.

2. By Mr. Shep four Steers from three to five years old, and a spayed red heifer, all of excellent forms, ca-

pacious bodies and in fine order. Their weights of beef were estimated at from 800 to 1200 lbs. The great weight of such young cattle justly excited the attention of the grazing gentlemen present, being an approach to one of the great points that ought to be kept constantly in view in breeding cattle, viz. early maturity. These cattle were fed by Mr. Shep.

3. By Mr. M'Caskey, eight fat Steers, two fine milch cows, and thirty-three sheep, from Lancaster county.

4. By Mr. Jacob Ridgway, a young bull calf, nine months old, and well grown; the produce of a bull and cow imported from Holland.

5. Mr. Barney, at the request of the society, brought a ram and three ewes of the new Leicester breed, being part of those he bought last autumn show.

6. Mr. R. E. Smith, again shewed two rams of the new Leicester breed exhibited last autumn.—Both those lots were admired by all who saw them; their bodies were completely enveloped in good long wool, and showed their naturally round forms to great advantage.

7. Mr. Bakewell, from near Norristown, brought several Pigs, of the Berkshire English breed. The merits of this breed, in attaining great size, upon good keeping, (for which they are said to pay well) is well known in England. Mr. Bakewell has found a cross between this stock, and the African breed, advantageous; the produce attaining speedily to desirable sizes, and taking on fat speedily.

8. Doctor Logan brought his fine stud Horse Eclipse.

9. Mr. Dubbs brought a fine colt from the well known horse Hickory.

10. Dr. Logan brought a scarifier with five shears, for pulverising ground, and cutting up surface weeds. It is made after the pattern of Mr. Cook, of England, and has been used with excellent effect during the last year.

11. Mr. Smith, of Bucks county, brought some of his excellent ploughs, which however were not tried, their merit being well known. Some of them were sold for 14 dollars. *Philadelphia Paper.*